

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 CA-01
INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5921
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 6473

FOR EA-OAKLEY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 163986

1. I WILL PLAN TO ATTEND JULY 3 INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE MEETING, TAKING POSITIONS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED INSTRUCTION. I HAVE ALREADY HAD AN INITIAL CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH SAMPATKUMAR AT HIS REQUEST ABOUT THE MEETING. I INDICATED THAT WE WOULD BE SUGGESTING IN GENEVA THAT A TOP-LEVEL UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE FROM GENEVA ATTEND THE MEETING, AND THAT I WOULD RAISE IN THE JULY 3 MEETING FOR DISCUSSION THE QUESTION OF HOLDING A BROADER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. SAMPATKUMAR SAW NO PROBLEMS WITH EITHER OF THESE POINTS, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT HE AS WELL AS THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT WERE NOT LIKELY TO HAVE MANY VIEWS ABOUT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM CAPITALS.
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WE AGREED TO BE IN TOUCH AGAIN AFTER US MISSION GENEVA HAD TALKED FURTHER WITH THE UNHCR.

2. SAMPATKUMAR INDICATED THAT A SENIOR MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAD CALLED TO HIS ATTENTION THAT THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD DISCUSSED INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROBLEM AT THEIR RECENT MEETING IN BANGKOK, AND THAT AS A RESULT THE

INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AS CHAIRMAN, WOULD BE WRITING SAMPATKUMAR TO URGE INCREASED UNHCR SUPPORT FOR THE GROWING INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROBLEM. IN DISCUSSING THE GROWING AUSTRALIAN CONCERN ABOUT REFUGEE BOATS BEING "SENT ON" TO AUSTRALIAN SHORES, SAMPATKUMAR CONFIRMED MY IMPRESSION THAT VERY FEW BOATS (5 OR 6) HAVE GONE FROM MALAYSIA TO AUSTRALIA, AND THAT MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE NOT REPEAT NOT ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO GO ON TO AUSTRALIA. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, SAMPATKUMAR SAID THAT THE RECENT VIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR UNHCR'S ASSISTANCE IN RESETTLING CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN VIETNAM (SEE KUALA LUMPUR 4355) HAS GOTTEN BOGGED DOWN IN PROCEDURAL DETAILS BUT THAT IT WAS NOT DEAD.

3. AUSTRALIANS INFORM US THAT AUSTRALIAN HICOM PLANS TO ATTEND JULY 3 CONFERENCE.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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